From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: France Greenlights Tax on Major Tech Companies Despite Potential Threat of U.S. Tariffs
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2019 5:37:56 AM

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By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- France's Senate approved a 3 percent tax on certain global tech companies, such as Facebook Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Google, today despite President Donald Trump's decision to open an investigation into the plan's potential harm to American companies. The administration's investigation could result in tariffs or trade restrictions on French goods, but France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire dismissed the threat, saying that the country "decides its own tax rules, and this will continue to be the case." (CNBC)

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has recently been urging American suppliers who work with Huawei Technologies Co. to apply for licenses allowing them to resume sales to the Chinese telecommunications company, according to people familiar with the situation. The Treasury Department isn't directly involved in sales agreements with companies on the United States's trade blacklist, which are handled by the Commerce Department, and a Treasury Department spokesperson denied that Mnuchin had "urged" any company to do anything regarding Huawei. (The Wall Street Journal)

- Amazon.com Inc. is expected to announce a new $700 million plan today to retrain 100,000 workers, or a third of its U.S. workforce, by 2025 in both an expansion of its existing training programs and a creation of new ones. The voluntary training aims to prepare workers for the ways in which their roles will change due to technological advancements, and most of the programs will be free to employees. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

Wall Street Hasn't Been This Pessimistic on Apple in Decades
Bloomberg

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

07/11/2019

VentureBeat Transform 2019	
White House Social Media Summit	
FCC's SHAKEN/STIR Robocall Summit	
U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Data Done Right" summit focused on data privacy	9:45 am

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's event on the big tech breakup debate	10:00 am
FCC webinar for low power broadcasters on the emergency alert system	1:00 pm
Senate Commerce hearing on National Surface Transportation Research Agenda	2:00 pm

07/12/2019

House Energy and Commerce's energy subcommittee's hearing on cyber threats to the grid	9:30 am

07/14/2019

Microsoft Inspire

07/15/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
Transformative Technology Summit	6:30 pm

07/16/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
Senate Banking Committee's hearing on Facebook's cryptocurrency	10:00 am
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's event on robotics	10:00 am

07/17/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
The Atlantic's "Building Opportunity for All" event in San Francisco	9:00 am

House Financial Services Committee's hearing on Facebook's cryptocurrency plans	10:00 am
Senate Judiciary's oversight hearing on the United States Copyright Office	2:30 pm

07/18/2019

Microsoft Inspire

View full calendar

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The New CCO Podcast - Concentrating on CommTech

We are on the cusp of a major transformation of how Communications works - what our teams look like, the roles it includes, the skills it requires, and the ways it operates.

On this edition of The New CCO, we discuss the emerging notion of CommTech with one of its pioneers. Listen to how one team is blending new tech with new ways of working to drive real business outcomes.

General

Pentagon's Messaging on JEDI: Without it, Our Adversaries Win and Troops Lose
Frank Konkel, Nextgov

Some of the Pentagon's leading tech officials warn that further delays in the department's planned $10 billion cloud contract could damage overall national security posture. For most of the past eight months, the Pentagon hasn't said much publicly about its $10 billion Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure contract as it fights Oracle's charges of a tainted procurement process in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Trump team fears new face on China trade team signals tougher stance
Robert Costa and David J. Lynch, The Washington Post

The Trump administration is increasingly concerned about prospects for a trade deal with China, amid an unexpected reshuffling of the Chinese negotiating team and a lack of progress on core issues since the Group of 20 summit in Japan, according to U.S. officials and senior Republicans briefed on the discussions.

Border Patrol Condemns Secret Facebook Group, but Reveals Few Specifics
A.C. Thompson, ProPublica

The agency won't say how many employees have been disciplined or warned in the ongoing scandal over offensive social media posts.

Amazon reveals the truth on why it nixed New York and chose Virginia for its HQ2
Scott Cohn, CNBC

How did Virginia manage to snag the biggest economic development prize in recent memory? Amazon says its abrupt decision in February to pull out of a deal to build part of its giant second headquarters in Long Island City, Queens, was not about politics, despite speculation to the contrary.

Uber and Lyft drivers swarm Sacramento as lawmakers advance gig

workers' rights bill
Johana Bhuiyan, Los Angeles Times

On many mornings, Minda Aguhob, a Harvard-educated data scientist who started driving for Uber and Lyft five years ago as she struggled to find a job, opens her Uber app around 6 o'clock, hoping to hear the familiar ping of a ride request from her first passenger of the day. Wednesday morning was different.

Road-tripping With The Amazon Nomads
Josh Dzieza, The Verge

Chris Anderson moves through the Target clearance racks with cool efficiency, surveying the towers of Star Wars Lego sets and Incredibles action figures, sensing, as if by intuition, what would be profitable to sell on Amazon. Discontinued nail polish can be astonishingly lucrative, but not these colors.

The Messy Reality of Personalized Learning
E. Tammy Kim, The New Yorker

Untangling the mixed record of the latest big-fix educational trend promoted by Silicon Valley.

U.S. Futures Climb on Rate-Cut Bets; Dollar Drops: Markets Wrap
Laura Curtis, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures climbed alongside Asia stocks while European shares erased an advance as investors weighed the latest signals from central bankers on interest rates. Treasuries were steady and the dollar edged lower.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Europe looks beyond fining Big Tech - to changing its business model
Nicholas Vinocur et al., Politico

Forget about hitting Big Tech with fines. Europe's new thinking is that it may be more effective to force Silicon Valley companies to change their behavior than to keep fining them, according to top privacy and antitrust officials gathered in Brussels this week.

Next on Facebook's Shopping List: Acquisitions to Beef Up Gaming

Alex Heath, The Information

Facebook is looking to buy game studios and ink exclusive deals for virtual reality versions of well-known games to bolster its Oculus VR headset business, according to two people familiar with the matter. As part of the new effort, in which CEO Mark Zuckerberg is personally involved, Facebook has already signed deals for exclusive VR versions of the popular games "Assassin's Creed" and "Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell," one of the people said.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

"This is crazy": FCC kills part of San Francisco's broadband-competition law
Jon Brodkin, Ars Technica

The Federal Communications Commission today voted to preempt part of a San Francisco ordinance that promotes broadband competition in apartment buildings and other multi-tenant structures. But it's not clear exactly what effect the preemption will have, because San Francisco says the FCC's Republican majority has misinterpreted what the law does.

5G gets boost in controversial FCC spectrum vote
Marguerite Reardon, CNET

The agency will make 2.5GHz midband spectrum available for auction, but one commissioner says it's torching a visionary policy in the process.

AT&T becomes first major wireless company to automatically block spam calls
Clare Duffy, CNN

AT&T customers could soon be free of having to deal with annoying spam calls - or at least that's AT&T's plan. On Tuesday, AT&T (T) became the first major US wireless company to automatically block robocalls for its customers.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Is Sued for Blocking Critics on Twitter
Jeffery C. Mays, The New York Times

President Trump and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are diametrical opposites in nearly every way, except perhaps for their shared home state of New York and their social media dominance. But now there may be another thing that binds the two: a federal appeals panel ruling on Tuesday found that Mr. Trump, a Republican, has been violating the Constitution by blocking people from following him on Twitter because they criticized or mocked him.

Conservative groups push Congress not to meddle with internet law
Makena Kelly, The Verge

Over a dozen right-leaning groups wrote to Congress on Wednesday asking leaders to reject any changes to the law that provides social media platforms with their largest legal shield, even as members on both sides of the aisle are now calling for major changes to the law.

Trump Invites Fringe Social Media Company Popular With Nazis to the White House
Ben Makuch, Motherboard

Minds.com was invited to a social media summit (featuring several far-right figures), but not Facebook and Twitter.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Trump Administration Hasn't Briefed Congress on New Rules for Cyberattacks, Lawmakers Say
Dustin Volz, The Wall Street Journal

The Trump administration hasn't allowed members of Congress to read a classified directive President Trump issued almost a year ago outlining new rules for the military's use of cyber weapons, despite repeated requests, according to lawmakers and others familiar with the matter.

Border officials not told of massive surveillance breach until three weeks after subcontractor was first alerted
Drew Harwell, The Washington Post

U.S. Customs and Border Protection was not informed that a hacker had stolen a huge cache of sensitive border-surveillance documents until nearly three

weeks after the cyberattack was first discovered, according to a new timeline provided Wednesday by the subcontractor Perceptics, raising new questions over a breach that left travelers' images and license plates open to potential abuse.

No new legislative momentum after election security briefings
Niels Lesniewski and Katherine Tully-McManus, Roll Call

Sen. Marco Rubio emerged from a closed briefing on the Trump administration's efforts to secure elections and made a renewed push for his own bipartisan deterrence legislation, even as he acknowledged there has not been momentum.

Customs and Border Protection Tells Congress It's Totally Legal to Use Face Recognition on Americans
Dell Cameron, Gizmodo

U.S. Homeland Security officials faced a barrage of questions on Wednesday from House lawmakers frustrated-as several put it-over the alleged lack transparency exhibited by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) when it comes to the legally murky use of face recognition tools at U.S. ports of entry.

Apple has pushed a silent Mac update to remove hidden Zoom web server
Zack Whittaker, TechCrunch

Apple has released a silent update for Mac users removing a vulnerable component in Zoom, the popular video conferencing app, which allowed websites to automatically add a user to a video call without their permission. The Cupertino, Calif.-based tech giant told TechCrunch that the update - now released - removes the hidden web server, which Zoom quietly installed on users' Macs when they installed the app.

McAfee Readies Return to Public Markets
Maureen Farrell and Miriam Gottfried, The Wall Street Journal

Cybersecurity-software company McAfee LLC is planning to return to the public markets, joining a record rush of initial public offerings. McAfee and its owners are meeting with bankers this week to discuss plans for a listing that could come as soon as this year, according to people familiar with the matter.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

When Cellphones Pose a Threat
Lee Reiber, Morning Consult

As mobile and wearable technology becomes further ingrained in the modern workplace, businesses face increasingly complex challenges in the fight to protect their intellectual property from leaks and other security breaches. Much has been made of the threat posed by compromised mobile devices, with hackers leveraging public Wi-Fi networks and fake apps to access data stored on employee devices.

Google's 4,000-Word Privacy Policy Is a Secret History of the Internet
Charlie Warzel and Ash Ngu, The New York Times

The late 1990s was a simpler time for Google. The nascent company was merely a search engine, and Gmail, Android and YouTube were but glimmers in the startup's eye.

The facial-recognition future we feared is here
Editorial Board, The Washington Post

Many undocumented immigrants in the United States already refrain from full participation in American life, concerned about the risk of deportation. But now they have another reason to fear showing their faces - literally.

ICE and the Ever-Widening Surveillance Dragnet
Sidney Fussell, The Atlantic

Over the weekend, the U.S. took another step in the slow march toward normalizing hidden database searches as a fact of urban life. A new report from Georgetown Law's Center on Privacy and Technology revealed that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials requested access to DMV databases in Utah, Washington State, and Vermont, with the intention of using facial-recognition technology to scan drivers' photos and match them against criminal and residency databases without their knowledge.

Research Reports

2018 Cyber Incident & Breach Trends Report

Internet Society

OTA analyzes cyber incident and breach events to extract key learnings and provide guidance to help organizations of all sizes raise the bar on trust through enhanced data protection and increased defense against evolving threats.

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